Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

NEWS AND NOTES

Miss M. F. Barrett spent the month of July at the Garden studying the collections of gelatinous fungi.

Mr. H. S. Jackson has been appointed plant pathologist of the agricultural experiment station at Corvallis, Oregon.

Joseph E. Kirkwood, Ph.D., Columbia, 1903, has been appointed assistant professor of forestry and botany in the University of Montana. He was formerly professor of botany in Syracuse University and for a time a botanical investigator for the Continental-Mexican Rubber Company.

Mr. William T. Horne, who was fellow in botany in Columbia University in 1903–'04, has resigned his position as chief of the department of plant pathology of the Cuban Agricultural Experiment Station and has accepted an appointment as assistant professor of plant pathology in the University of California.

Tropical Life announces a prize of fifty pounds sterling for an essay embodying research work directed towards ascertaining exactly what changes (together with their causes and whether these changes occur during the fermentation process only or while being dried) take place in the cacao bean between the time that it leaves the pod until it is shoveled into the bag for export. For further information those interested may address the editor of *Tropical Life,* 112 Fenchurch St., E. C. London.

Preliminary notes on the genus *Usnea,* as represented in New England, by R. Heber Howe, Jr., appeared in the Torrey Bulletin for June, 1909. The article contains a key to the species and copious notes on their appearance and distribution, accompanied by three plates of illustrations.

Professor John Dearness, of London, Canada, has been spending the summer at Truro, Nova Scotia, engaged in making a collection of fungi.

Dr. C. H. Peck describes twenty-two new species of fungi, mostly agarics, in the June number of the Torrey Bulletin. More than half of these were collected by Professor C. F. Baker at Claremont, California.

The first number of the new botanical journal *Dörfleria,* published by Dörfler in Vienna, appeared in May, 1909, and was widely distributed among botanists. This journal is intended to be an international organ supplying a botanical biblography and reporting upon everything that happens in the botanical world.

Dr. W. A. Murrill, Assistant Director, visited Mountain Lake, Virginia, in July and obtained nearly a thousand specimens of fungi, mostly large fleshy species. This region is moist and heavily wooded, the elevation being over four thousand feet, and its fungous flora has been up to this time practically unknown, although by inference closely related to that of the high mountains of West Virginia and North Carolina.

An exceedingly useful pamphlet on the Diseases of Deciduous Forest Trees, embodying the results of many years of observation and experiment, was issued in June, 1909, as Bulletin No. 149 of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, under the joint authorship of Hermann von Schrenk and Perley Spaulding. This bulletin contains 66 pages of text, a bibliography of 114 citations, and 10 excellent half-tone plates. The more important diseases of deciduous forest trees are here discussed, leaving those peculiar to shade and ornamental trees for another publication.

Dr. Peck's report for 1908, issued in July, 1909, as Museum Bulletin 131, is a volume of 202 pages and 4 colored plates, containing, besides the usual reports on additions to the herbarium, a monographic treatment of the New York species of *Lentinus* and *Entoloma* and a list of species and varieties of fungi described by Dr. Peck during forty years of remarkable activity. The number of new species of fungi, exclusive of the new varieties, described by him during this period reaches a total of nearly two thousand five hundred. Dr. Peck has, practically speaking, collected his own mycological herbarium and written his own mycological library.

An important pamphlet on Bud Rot and Some Other Cocoanut Troubles in Cuba, by William Titus Horne, was recently issued as Bulletin No. 15 of the Cuban Experiment Station, Santiago de las Vegas. The bud rot has been known in the West Indies for a number of years, where it constitutes the most serious obstacle to the cultivation of the cocoanut. It causes the nuts to drop, the leaves to turn yellow, and the bud, or heart, of the tree to decay. The cause of the disease is still unknown, but it is believed to be bacterial in nature, and there is abundant evidence that healthy trees are infected from diseased ones.

A satisfactory treatment for this disease has not yet been discovered, but it may be held in check by the destruction of the tops of all trees dead or seriously affected with bud rot; by flaming, or burning out the tops, of all early cases, or trees suspected to have the disease; and by spraying with Bordeaux mixture in the hope of curing early cases and for the protection of healthy trees. All three methods have been employed in Jamacia with good results.

A valuable descriptive paper by T. Petch on the Phalloideae of Ceylon, accompanied by eleven handsome plates, appeared in the December number of the Annals of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya. Five Ceylon species were collected by Gardner in 1844, and Berkeley described an additional species from Thwaites' collections in 1863–68. To these, Massee later added *Phallus proximus,* and two other species have since been described. The number of species is still considerably behind that of Java, but it may be materially increased when the lower elevations are explored. The species already known exhibit a marked distribution according to altitude.

Mr. Petch is engaged in the very important task of redescribing the fungi of Ceylon, and he has met with many difficulties in his work because of the different sets of types and the inadequate descriptions based on them. He is of the opinion "that the only possible way in which any definite knowledge can be evolved out of the present chaos is that mycologists of each tropical country should work out their species in a similar manner (by comparison with types), and that when this is done they should interchange specimens and colored drawings of at any rate their common forms. But if the original collections were not returned to the sender there is no possibility of ever arriving at a definite conclusion, and the existing records are merely so much waste paper. Certainly the present practice of consigning Basidiomycetae to Europe is a waste of time. The describers not only fail to recognize a species: in many cases they do not hit upon the right genus. The descriptions are unrecognizable, and the 'species' upon which they are founded are often only damaged or abnormal forms of common things. The latter is especially the case when, as so often happens at the present day, the actual collecting is entrusted to coolies. *The mycologist must collect his own specimens and know them under all conditions.*"